

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and new claims 9-16 respectively are presented therefor, and further present the claims in accordance with USA practice under 35 USC §112, and eliminate multiple-dependent form claims.

No multiple-dependent claim fees should apply in this application.

The specification has been amended for formal improvement to comply with USA practice and to correct informalities.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee as of the filing date, and to provide an action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted

Hans-Peter Stang

by: _____

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Registered Representative

Registration No.: 22,345

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 31, 2005

Dated: January 31, 2005

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